



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 7, 2011

Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Transportation Committee  
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Transportation Committee  
Transportation Committee Members

Subject: **HOUSE BILL #6184**

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association is opposed to **House Bill #6184, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FLASHING RED OR WHITE LIGHTS AND AMBER LIGHTS ON A VEHICLE BEING OPERATED BY A LOCAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

Our Association represents approximately 27,000 career and volunteer firefighters in the State of Connecticut.

In a report entitled "Report of the Flashing Light Task Force" pursuant to **Public Act 03-265**, one of their requirements was to study the safety risks and benefits of the use of flashing or revolving lights. One of the risks listed on page 10 of the report states,

**"There is a lack of awareness on the part of the public of the types of vehicles authorized to use flashing or revolving lights. This is compounded by the number of such vehicles on the road."**

Additionally, on page 15 of the same report it states,

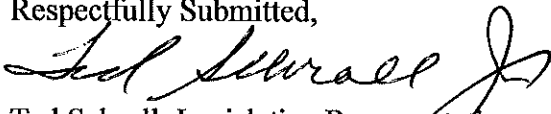
**"The Task Force recognized a lack of public awareness on how to respond to approaching vehicles displaying a flashing or revolving .....light."**

Without diminishing the duties and responsibilities of a Deputy Director of Emergency Management, by virtue of the title "Deputy", would mean a secondary response behind the Director. We would also suggest that any response by Emergency Management personnel would be secondary to a **FIRE SERVICE** response. We feel that the need for an emergency response may not be warranted enough for an emergency response flashing light. We feel that this legislation would add to the confusion of the public that already exists, as stated in the Flashing Light Task Force Report.

We would not be opposed to the authorization of a flashing light of another color, such as yellow which is used as emergency recognition, but not emergency response.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association